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NEW MAGNESITE MINE DISCOVERED

MAGNESITE MINE OBVIATES CZECH IMPORTS -- Rad, No 136, 9 Jun 49

A mine yielding excellent magnesite suitable for sintering has been discovered by the Zenica Ironworks' Office for Promoting Production. This magnesite will take the place of that imported heretofore from Czechoslovakia.

Sinter magnesite, a fireproof earth-brown mineral essential for the production of steel in Siemens-Martin furnaces, was imported from Czechoslovakia until the Cominform Resolution, since when shipments have shrunk to half the previous level. As Yugoslav steelworkers were able to economize on the quantity of sinter magnesite used to repair holes in the floors of the furnaces without reducing production capacity, the Czechs began to ship sinter magnesite of poor quality that fuses with the red-hot steel, causing granulations and crevices in the steel and making it unusable.

Finally, the Czechs began to deliver sinter magnesite mixed with lead, which deprives the steel of its hardness. The adulteration was discovered at Zenica in time to prevent the loss of a single charge, as none of the sinter magnesite was actually put into any of the furnaces.

COAL MINE ELIMINATES LABOR SHORTAGE -- Rad, No 137, 10 Jun 49

Nis -- The workers of the Jelasnica coal mine have fulfilled their half-year plan for coal production 22 days ahead of schedule. Previously, the mine sometimes failed to meet its plan because of labor shortages. This year there was sufficient manpower, due to an intensive campaign to reduce absenteeism and to the assistance of volunteers from the People's Front of neighboring villages. In return, the miners have repaired over 17,000 farm implements for the volunteers.

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PETROLEUM REFINING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE -- Rad, No 137, 10 Jun 49

All Yugoslav petroleum refineries have completed their half-year plans 24 or more days ahead of schedule. The refineries in Sisak and in Rijeka fulfilled their plans on 18 May and 3 June, respectively.

This year Yugoslav refineries will produce aviation gasoline, motor oil, and oils for transformers.

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